notified for disposing effluents in the river, so that river quality for designated use is maintained.

Deliberate killing of wild buffalos

1910. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a deliberate killing of wild buffalos in the Papikonda Game Sanctuary in the last two years;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fast depletion of wild buffalos in Papikonda Game Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the corrective or preventive steps Government have initiated in responding to various demands to better protect this game sanctuary;

(d) whether Government would take stock of the situation on an urgent basis; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No such incidence has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to States for protection and management of sanctuaries/national parks. The funds provided to Papikonda Sanctuary during last three years are as below—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Funds Released
2002-03	13.50
2003-04	12.70
2004-05	9.00

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Following steps have been taken for better management of Protected Areas in the country—

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) For effective protection of wild animals financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure.

(iii) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Government to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(iv) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

Taxing polluting units and municipalities

1911. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to tax polluting units and municipalities that don't take steps to curb pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria to select the polluting units; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for taxing polluting units and municipalities that do not take steps to curb pollution. However, the industrial units have to comply with the emission and effluent standards notified by the Ministry and necessary legal action is taken under the provisions of various environmental Acts against the defaulters.